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July has seldom found the foliage in the Arboretum looking more luxuriant than at the present time. Favored by a generous rainfall the shrubs and trees have made excellent growth. The Oaks and the Conifers in particular are looking their best. Catalpa and Linden trees, together with a miscellaneous variety of shrubs, are in bloom, and suffrutescent Woadwax (*Genista tinctoria*) spears the grass with abundant yellow beneath Pine, Oak and Hickory. Alongside Bussey Brook, round the ponds and in the meadow in front of the Administration Building, bushes of the American Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) are sheets of white. This Elder may be termed a coarse shrub, more fit for the edge of lake and woodland and wild places in general than for the garden proper, but none will deny that it is a striking subject. Each and every shoot terminates in a broad flat cluster of pure white flowers, and these are speedily followed by heavy masses of jet black fruits which hang in bunches from colored stalks. It has a place in large gardens and the countryside in July would be shorn of much beauty did it disappear. Another conspicuous native shrub just passing out of blossom is *Viburnum pubescens*, so abundant in Massachusetts and elsewhere. Its southern variety (*Canbyi*), which closes the *Viburnum* season of blossom, is now at the height of beauty. When given proper room to develop this is a broad, round-topped shrub, 18 feet high and more in diameter, each shoot terminating in a 4-inch broad, convex corymb of white flowers. It has larger flower-clusters and broader, thinner leaves than the type. Both have clustered, small, globose, blue-black fruits.

Rhododendron arborescens is flowering freely this season. On Bussey Hill are drifts of this Azalea; clumps are planted by the roadside just within the Centre Street Gate and elsewhere in the Arboretum. Truly this delightful shrub ought to be more abundantly grown. It is of shapely habit with twiggy branches forming a dense, rounded mass. The leaves are green on the upper side and gray beneath with conspicuous reddish petioles. The flowers, each 2 inches across, are tubular with spreading lobes, pure white or flushed with pink and borne several together in terminal clusters. The far outthrust crimson-pink stamens and pistil, with jet black stigma, are prominent features. Its fragrance of Honeysuckle is perhaps not so strong as in the related

Swamp Honeysuckle (*R. viscosum*) but it is a very superior garden plant. The Swamp Honeysuckle is also in blossom, scenting the air for some distance around. These two species bring to a close the Azalea season which opened in the Arboretum early in April with *Rhododendron dauricum mucronulatum*.

Spiraea Veitchii is the last of its group to blossom and one of the best of the whole Spiraea tribe. It is a tall growing bush with stems some 10 to 12 feet high, ascending and spreading, the outer arching downward and outward, forming a dome-shaped mass. The leaves are oval from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch long, quite entire, dark green above and grayish on the underside. The flowers are produced at the ends of short lateral shoots in flattened cymose clusters, each from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches across, which are developed along the shoots for half their length. The individual flowers are small, of a deep cream color and have the odor of English Hawthorn. Bees find it a very attractive plant, judging by the number that visit the specimen on Bussey Hill and others along Centre Street Path. This Spiraea is one of Wilson's introductions from western China where it is a common plant above an altitude of 6,000 feet.

Holodiscus discolor is another summer flowering shrub noticeable at this time of the year. Closely related to the Spiraeas, this is a bush with arching branches and broad ovate coarsely toothed leaves densely clothed with gray tomentose hairs on the lower surface. The flowers are borne in large spreading, often hanging, panicle masses which terminate lateral shoots. Native of western North America it was introduced into gardens in 1827 by David Douglas. The type now-a-days is less frequently seen than the variety *ariaefolius* which is distinguished by having leaves light green and merely pubescent on the under side. The plants flower in the utmost profusion and are exceedingly graceful in habit. They sometimes make bushes 12 feet high and as much as 40 feet through, thriving equally well in full sunshine or in the shade of thin woods. In books, *Holodiscus* is more frequently spoken of under the name of *Spiraea* from which genus, however, it differs in that the fruit capsule does not open to liberate the seeds. Specimens may be seen in flower on Centre Street Path and in the Shrub Garden.

Deutzia longifolia is in blossom among the Chinese shrubs on Bussey Hill. This appears to be one of the hardiest of the Chinese *Deutzias* and is certainly one of the best. The flowers vary in color from pale rose-purple to almost rose pink, and the broad, flattened stamen filaments are of the same color as the petals. This *Deutzia* is a shrub from 3 to 5 feet tall and as much in diameter, with oblong, lance-shaped pointed leaves, dark green, much wrinkled above and gray on the underside. The flowers, in clusters at the ends of short leafy shoots, are each from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across and the erect, much-flattened stamen filaments form a prominent corona in the center of the flower. Bulletin 12 told something of the Hybrid *Deutzias* raised by Lemoine. Bearing in mind the wonderful improvement he wrought with less noteworthy species, it is evident that hybridists of the future have in *D. longifolia* a plant rich in possibilities.



Hydrangea paniculata praecox

Hydrangea paniculata praecox. The familiar *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* with huge heads of white flowers has been planted in overwhelming quantities throughout the length and breadth of this country. This is a monstrous form of a variable shrub, common on the margins of woods and thickets throughout Japan—monstrous in that all its flowers are neuter and have conspicuous petals, a condition also found in the Snowball Bush. Although in no sense related, it is interesting to note that it is only in *Hydrangea* and *Viburnum* that heads of neuter flowers are known amongst hardy plants. The typical *H. paniculata* has pyramidal heads of flowers in which conspicuous 4-partite neuter flowers are thinly scattered. It is a much more handsome plant than the mop-like form so ardently cultivated in this country. An early flowering form, known as *praecox*, is just opening its blossoms in the Shrub Garden, and is a shrub well worth the attention of all interested in hardy plants. It blooms ahead of the type and is of vigorous habit with ascending stems each terminating in a graceful pyramid of blossom often more than a foot long.

Leptodermis oblonga. In the border along the Centre Street Path may be seen commencing to flower two small plants of this interesting ornamental shrub. It belongs to the family which includes the Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and the Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*) but most of its woody members are tropical and very few can be grown out-of-doors in Massachusetts. This *Leptodermis*, the only species of the genus hardy in the Arboretum, is a twiggy shrub seldom exceeding 3 feet in height, with small, oblong leaves and dense clusters of flowers terminating in short shoots. The flowers are rich purple, tubular, each $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long with short spreading lobes, and continue to open from now until early autumn. The plant is well suited for sheltered but sunny positions in the rockery.

Lonicera Henryi with pinkish purple, gaping flowers and black fruits would have little claim to be considered an ornamental plant were it not for the evergreen character of its foliage. On this account it is a most useful addition to the limited number of evergreen vines hardy in New England. Henry's Honeysuckle has oblong, lance-shaped leaves, each from 2 to 3 inches long, dull green above and lustrous on the underside. It is splendid for clothing walls or trellises or for rambling over rocks. The foliage is abundant and the plant is not weedy in habit or so luxuriant in growth that it cannot easily be kept within bounds. It may be seen on the trellis in the Shrub Garden and among the Chinese shrubs on the Bussey Hill.

Cytisus supinus, with capitate clusters of yellow flowers terminating each foot long shoot, is in blossom. In Bulletin 9 attention was drawn to the garden value of the various Brooms and those who visit Bussey Hill and the Shrub Garden at the present time will have ample proof of this. Conspicuous in both places are rounded masses of *C. nigricans* bearing a multitude of rich yellow blossoms. Of neat compact habit and absolute hardiness, this is one of the best of the subshrubs which blossom after mid-summer has passed.

E. H. W.